In the Claims:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Presently Amended) Apparatus for measuring the condition of fruit and vegetables comprising a plunger movable into and out of contact with a surface of an item of fruit or vegetable,

said plunger carrying a transducer at a distal end thereof which is brought into contact with an item of fruit or vegetables, the transducer reacting to a property of said fruit or vegetables to produce an output signal related to that property,

wherein ~~at least a part of said plunger~~ the transducer which contacts said item of fruit or vegetables is ~~of generally~~ curved in shape.

11. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 10 mounted in a resilient bellows assembly, said bellows assembly being capable of expansion under the action of pressurized air to bring the transducer into contact with a fruit or vegetable surface for measurement, and retraction by the application of a vacuum to move the transducer away from the fruit or vegetable surface.

12. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the transducer comprises an active transducer.

13. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the transducer comprises an active transducer.

14. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the transducer comprises a piezoelectric sensor.

15. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the transducer comprises a piezoelectric sensor.

16. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the transducer is generally hemispherical in shape at least at the part thereof which contacts the fruit or vegetable surface.

17. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the transducer is generally hemispherical in shape at least at the part thereof which contacts the fruit or vegetable surface.

18. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the transducer is generally hemispherical in shape at least at the part thereof which contacts the fruit or vegetable surface.

19. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the transducer is generally hemispherical in shape at least at the part thereof which contacts the fruit or vegetable surface.

20. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the transducer is generally hemispherical in shape at least at the part thereof which contacts the fruit or vegetable surface.

21. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the transducer is generally hemispherical in shape at least at the part thereof which contacts the fruit or vegetable surface.

22. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the plunger comprises a housing within which is mounted a slug which carries said transducer wherein said slug is movable in said housing against the bias of a biasing member.

23. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 22 wherein the biasing means comprises a spring.

24. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 22, wherein movement of said slug in said housing is additionally damped by a damping member.

25. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein movement of said slug in said housing is additionally damped by a damping member.

26. (Presently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said transducer is electrically connected ~~to external circuitry~~ by an electrical connection and said electrical connection is associated with or disposed within ~~said~~ a damping member.

27. (Presently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said transducer is electrically connected ~~to external circuitry~~ by an electrical connection and said electrical connection is associated with or disposed within ~~said~~ a damping member.

28. (Presently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 24 wherein said transducer is electrically connected ~~to external circuitry~~ by an electrical connection and said electrical connection is associated with or disposed within said damping member.

29. (Presently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 25 wherein said transducer is electrically connected ~~to external circuitry~~ by an electrical connection and said electrical connection is associated with or disposed within said damping member.